

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. KHARTOUM TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

EMBASSY KHARTOUM REPORTS THAT THE ONLY TANGIBLE RESULT OF PRESIDENTS ASAD, SADAT AND NIMEIRI'S KHARTOUM SUMMIT WAS THE INCORPORATION OF THE SUDAN INTO THE SYRO-EGYPTIAN UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND. NO ONE, INCLUDING SENIOR GOS OFFICIALS, SEEMS TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF THE PURPOSES OF THE SUMMIT.

DESPITE THE PROMINENCE GIVEN STANDARD MIDEAST ISSUES IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE THE LIBYAN THREAT, PROBLEMS IN THE HORN, AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 045911

SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. ON BALANCE, THE SUMMIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE, BUT AS ONE ARAB DIPLOMAT REMARKED, THIS IS IMPORTANT IN THE ARAB WORLD. (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 704, 3/1.)

2. THAW IN SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS?

EMBASSY STOCKHOLM REPORTS THAT TWO EVENTS OF POTENTIALLY HISTORIC IMPORTANCE HAVE OCCURRED IN THE LAST WEEK WHICH MAY SIGNAL AN END TO THE 40 YEAR FREEZE IN SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS:

--SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER SODER, IN A FEBRUARY 23 SPEECH IN STOCKHOLM, PRAISED CURRENT SPANISH EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM THE COUNTRY INTO A DEMOCRACY.

--SWEDEN'S HIGHEST-RANKING CAREER DIPLOMAT, SVERKER ASTROM, DEPARTED FEBRUARY 27 FOR TALKS IN MADRID COVERING THE ENTIRE RANGE OF SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES CAREFULLY POINT OUT THAT THE ROAD TO CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS IS STILL A LONG ONE, AND BOUND TO BE INTERRUPTED SHOULD SPAIN DELAY ITS EVOLUTION TOWARD DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE DOOR TO BETTER RELATIONS COULD START TO CREAK OPEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) STOCKHOLM 881, 2/28.)

3. PERU: ARMS AND POLITICS DON'T MIX

IN AN ANALYSIS OF PRESENT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN PERU, EMBASSY LIMA AGREES WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT SOVIET ARMS SALES HAVE NOT LED TO GREATLY INCREASED LEVERAGE. IN FACT, PERU HAS TURNED BACK TOWARD THE POLITICAL CENTER DURING THE PAST YEAR, AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF MOVEMENT TO THE LEFT.

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PAGE 03 STATE 045911

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE AIMING AT LONG-TERM POLITICAL GOALS THROUGH ARMS SALES, HOPING TO INDOCTRINATE JUNIOR AND FIELD-GRADE OFFICERS WHO MAY RISE TO POSITIONS OF POWER LATER ON. PERUVIAN CONCERN ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY WAS REVEALED IN JULY 1976, WHEN THE REMOVAL OF LEFTIST PRIME MINISTER JORGE FERNANDEZ MALDONDO SPARKED SOME RESISTANCE BY A NUMBER OF MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 1585, 2/28 AND 727, 1/27 AND MOSCOW 2381, 2/19.)

4. DID OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM SKEWER PEREZ?

EMBASSY CARACAS REPORTS THAT VENEZUELA'S RESUMEN MAGAZINE HAS PUBLISHED A LONG ARTICLE SUGGESTING THAT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM WAS BEHIND THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY LINKING PRESIDENT PEREZ TO ALLEGED CIA PAYMENTS. THE ARTICLE, WHICH PURPORTEDLY QUOTES HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND AT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, ASSERTS THAT THE COMPANY FABRICATED THE ALLEGATIONS TO DISCREDIT AND DESTA-

BILIZE THE PEREZ REGIME. RESUMEN ALSO CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH TIMES REPORTER DAVID BINDER, IN WHICH BINDER APOLOGIZES FOR THE ARTICLE AND ADMITS THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PEREZ AND WILLY BRANDT WERE NOT THOROUGHLY CHECKED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: LOCAL OCCIDENTAL REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS BULLOS HAS DENIED THAT THE COMPANY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE TIMES ARTICLE. WHATEVER THE ACCURACY OF THE RESUMEN STORY, ITS PROBABLE EFFECT WILL BE TO PREJUDICE FURTHER POLITICAL OPINION AGAINST OCCIDENTAL IN VENEZUELA.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) CARACAS 2091, 2/28.)

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